

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2003



10TH ANNUAL BUNCOM DAY: A FLY-BY AND OUR CONGRESSMAN

Our congressman, the biggest parade ever, our first airplane fly-by, clowns, a magician and musicians galore were just some of the highlights of our 10th Annual Buncom Day.

Mother Nature once again gave us a glorious day as hundreds flocked to Buncom for the annual affair. And as usual, spirits were high to make the day one of the best.

Children were enthralled by a magician, a troop of clowns, pony rides, a chance to get their photo on the Internet and many other activities.

Adults enjoyed a fly-by by a vintage triplane piloted by Patrick Henry, a chance to visit with our congressman, Rep. Greg Walden, and several booths of interesting and diverse subjects and crafts.

And everyone enjoyed the parade, a wide



Rep. Greg Walden & Chauffeur

Thanks, CDS!

OUR NEWSLETTER HAS A NEW LOOK

It's pretty obvious that there is a whole new look to the newsletter this issue. The folks at CDS Publications in Medford have agreed to print each issue, and as part of the change, we decided it was time for a new format. Our special thanks go to the team at CDS for their generosity, and for their time in guiding us through the process of getting the best possible quality newsletter to you.

variety of musical talent, the Grange barbecue and our ever-blossoming Country Store presided over by Rose Marie Leever and Phyllis Runals.

County Commissioner Sue Kupillas was the parade grand marshal, and she led the largest and most diverse group yet. Paraders in pioneer dress joined riders on horseback -- both real and stick -- old cars, an ancient fire truck, floats, musicians, and those who just wanted to participate and wave to the crowd.

There was the World Famous Buncom Chicken Splat Contest -- of course! -- face painting, horseshoeing with J.B. Roberts, gold panning with Larry Goins, our Applegate Val

(See Buncom Day, Page 3)

Remembering Buncom Pioneer Harley Hall

Harley Hopkins Hall, Jr., son of a Buncom postmaster and grand marshal of Buncom's Centennial celebration in 1996, died Aug. 4 after a three-month illness.

Harley, who was 80, was a fixture at Buncom Day, helping wife Vernie run the drink and baked goods booth and relaxing with his friends in lawn chairs in front of the bandstand. He was a timber faller for many years and a noted hunter and fisherman.



**Harley Hall as Grand Marshal of the
Buncom Day Centennial in 1996**

At the Buncom Centennial in 1996, when asked to say a few words, Grand Marshal Harley did just that -- about eight words. He simply told everyone how glad he was to see them honoring Buncom's history.

The book, "Buncom: Crossroads Station," by Connie Fowler and J.B. Roberts, related this about Harley:

Harley Hall remembers much about Buncom and the Little Applegate Valley. Born in 1922, he spent most of his life in the area. He said he was actually a native, even though he was born in Crescent City, Calif. "You see," he said with a twinkle, "there was this big earthquake and the line moved north."

Harley's grandmother, Annie, or Grandma as she was called, took the mail up Sterling and

up the Little Applegate with a horse and buggy twice a week. Harley Senior, Harley's father, ran the little store and was Postmaster in the store building and post office that is at Buncom now. After he married Grace Potter, they bought a place up on the hill about a half-mile upriver from Buncom. There they built a log home which later burned. The house still stands that replaced the log one. ...

Harley Jr. remembers that there were lots of miners' shacks between their place and Buncom, a distance of half a mile.

When Harley reached school age, he was kept back because there were too many kids at Little Applegate School (perhaps eight). It was three miles and, of course, kids had to walk in those days if they didn't have some form of four-legged transportation. He went to school at Sterling and later to Little Applegate School.

With game plentiful, and the river full of fish, the Halls didn't lack for food. They raised turkeys, pigs and chickens, had a big garden and canned food for winter.

Harley talked about the wild elk and the herds of deer. He remembered white 'diggers,' a white crow, and white robins. Eagles and fishers lived in the valley then, too. The Halls milked 15 cows, morning and evening, when Harley Jr. was growing up. After chores, Harley walked to school. He said about being a kid, "You worked hard. And you minded when I was a kid."

Harley Jr. married Vernice Thompson, and they raised their children on the Little Applegate. They are two of the remaining few who have stayed in the valley. After living for a few years on their section of land up by Squaw Lakes, the Halls now spend their winters in the house they built just across the road from Harley's brother, Lee.

The Halls represent the traditional people of Buncom. They lived off the land, utilizing everything they could to support their families. They lived well on deer and fish, when both

BUNCOM IRRIGATION PROJECT IS COMPLETED

Buncom's trees are now getting some relief from parched summer heat. Board members J.B. Roberts and Reeve Hennion recently installed a soaker hose system to bring water to the pines that tower over Buncom. The soaker hose system will supplement the little summertime rain we get, especially in drought years.

The system is the latest enhancement to provide additional protection for the pines. Earlier, chain gates were installed to prevent cars from parking under the trees and compacting the soil.

BUNCOM DAY (from Page 1)

ley Rural Fire Protection District #9, Out of the Woods Eco-Forestry and the Ruch Library book sale.

There were sales of signs, bird houses and plants, with Don Shaffer donating his entire proceeds from the sale of 82 tomato plants to Buncom. Thanks, Don!

And, of course, there was a lot of jest a-sittin' and a'chattin'.

For the first time, others joined with our Buncom Day celebration in a joint Ruch-wide

**For More Buncom Day photos, see our
website at www.buncom.org**

event. Valley View Winery released its 25th vintage of cabernet sauvignon, and the Sunshine Plaza and Ryan's Outpost sponsored a rummage sale in Ruch, with proceeds going to the Ruch and Applegate schools.

Logging in the Old Days



Nelson Pursel, logging in the Little Applegate Valley near the mouth of Yale Creek, in the very early 1900s.

HARLEY (from Page 2)

were plentiful. Their children learned to work and do about anything. The land provided them with all they needed to live.

Hard work and determination gave those people a resilience which seems lacking today. Harley still works hard, chopping wood, building things, working on his land at Squaw Lakes. Not to work would be not to be alive.

In addition to Vernie, Harley is survived by two daughters, Marlene Robinson of Tacoma, WA, and Judy Hall, of Vancouver, WA; brothers Lee, and Richard, San Diego, CA; sisters Stella Rametes of Talent and Elizabeth Patch of Monroe, WA; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Wilderness Trails, P.O. Box 4655, Medford, OR 97501.

At his memorial service, the Rev. Earl Best recalled that on the day he died, Harley in his hospital bed had told him: "There is no place like The Applegate."

We miss you, Harley.

Scenes from the 10th Annual Buncom Day



How did he do that??



What a Parade!



That's Patrick Henry flying over Buncom

Trail Band Time is Coming Up Again

It's not long until it will be time for our annual get-together for The Trail Band's Christmas Concert at the Craterian Theater in Medford. It's set for Saturday evening, Dec. 6.

Last year our block of tickets was sold out early, so if you are interested, please give Lyn Hennion a call at 899-7656.

We expect to have our usual pot-luck hors d'ouvres/dessert reception at the theater before the show. More details in the November newsletter.



*Getting Ready for the
Chicken Splat*

THANKS TO THESE NEW OR RENEWING MEMBERS

Bones & Barb Wright, Bodega Bay, CA
Tony & Betty Bauer, Medford, OR
Violet Brewer, Central Point, OR
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Joe & Jeanne Schattler, Jacksonville, OR
Allen & Lillian Stewart, Jacksonville, OR
Bill & Cate Yocum, Ashland, OR
Mike Emmons, Olympia, WA

"Before Buncom Was Cool!"

Hi! To Whom this may concern:

(I knew Buncom before Buncom was cool!!)

When I first came to the valley in 1969 I went to every Historical site in the valley as I wanted to learn about the area. Often driving my California friends up to see the pristine valley of the Little Applegate.

When asked about the buildings 'Buncom' now, I told them the Chinese, who I knew dug most of the water ditches (for mining) bunked there!! It sounded interesting to them and I thought that was where the Chinese bunked!!

Anyway, best wishes and thanks to Buncom Historical Society for all their dedication and work.

*Sincerely,
Rita J. McDonagh*

A SPECIAL THANKS ...

Along with their dues, several of our members sent additional donations. We would like to offer our additional thanks for their generous support:

Rita McDonagh
Barbara & Paul Dallas
Clarence & Evelyn Williams
Louise & David Doran
Bon & Laurie Dysart
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Newt & Marge Likely
Lind & Effa McBeth
Jan & Rauno Perttu
Barbara & Bro Mumblo
Sheila & Marshall Lightner
Joe & Jeanne Schattler
Marvin & Lilli Ann Rosenberg

IMPORTANT FOR MEMBERS!

Take a look at the address label on this newsletter. If there is a "NO" written on the bottom, it means you haven't paid dues for 2003 and this is the last newsletter you will be getting. Please send your subscription renewal of \$5.00 to the Society at the address below. Thanks!

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The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon. Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet:
www.buncom.org

To join the Society, send \$5.00 with your name and address to the Society at 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

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Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater

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Outpost Farm & Garden

Pit Stop Coffee

Sunshine Cafe

Eve's Garden Cafe

A Rug For All Reasons

Grange Co-op

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